

Let's tear down some hydroelectric dams in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district; let's tear them down.

We are going to lose green power. We are doing it over the objections of the people who live there, who have objected by over 70 percent to removal of these dams, all for an unproven environmental benefit.

So enjoy even less electricity. Enjoy even less food grown in my district and Mr. BENTZ' district. Enjoy even more of the crisis that is facing us in rural California, rural America, and on our store shelves and in our electrical wires due to even more unfounded environmental rules being forced upon us to tear down perfectly good hydroelectric dams. Thanks one hell of a lot.

#### RECOGNIZING RETAIL SOLUTIONS GROUP

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Randy Whittington, Gary Foster, Angela Rogers, and Joey Haney of the Retail Solutions Group in Wilkesboro, North Carolina.

I was proud to join them recently at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for their fourth, and largest, warehouse.

In the last few years, Retail Solutions Group has grown from fewer than eight employees to now over 200. This is a magnificent accomplishment.

Madam Speaker, North Carolina remains a hub for entrepreneurship and innovation, thanks to people such as Randy, Gary, Angela, and Joey.

Congratulations to Retail Solutions Group on this new and exciting chapter. I look forward to hearing more about the strides you will make in the days and months ahead.

#### AMERICA NEEDS A NEW COURSE

(Mr. MEUSER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, as we here in the House and our country come near the close of 2022, the United States has gone through the worst year on our record for illegal border crossings.

Meanwhile, we have a Homeland Security Secretary who tells us regularly that the border is secure. Just this last month, over 230,000 illegals have crossed that we know of.

Along with this, gasoline prices are over \$4 a gallon again, and the cost of Thanksgiving for most families will be over 20 percent what it was last year.

This has been a troubling year. America needs a new course. This House needs a new course, a new direction, and new priorities that strengthen America and Americans.

#### SPEAKER PELOSI'S FUTURE PLANS

(Ms. PELOSI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, as we gather here, we stand on sacred ground, the Chamber of the United States House of Representatives, the heart of American democracy.

I will never forget the first time I saw the Capitol. It was on a cold January day, when I was 6 years old. My father, Thomas D'Alesandro, Jr., was about to be sworn in for his fifth term in Congress representing our beloved hometown of Baltimore.

I was riding in the car with my brothers. They were thrilled and jumping up and down and saying to me: "Nancy, look, there's the Capitol." And every time I would say: "I don't see any capitals. Is it a capital A, a capital B, or a capital C?"

Finally, I saw it, a stunning white building with a magnificent dome. I believed then, as I believe today, this is the most beautiful building in the world because of what it represents. The Capitol is a temple of our democracy, of our Constitution, of our highest ideals.

On that day, I stood with my father on this floor as he took the sacred oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic.

All of us who have served in this House have taken the hallowed oath of office. It is the oath that stitches us together in a long and storied heritage. Colleagues who served before us are all our colleagues: colleagues like Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Webster, Shirley Chisholm, Patsy Mink, and our beloved John Lewis.

Personally, it binds me as a colleague to my father, a proud New Deal Congressman and one of the earliest Italian Americans to serve in Congress.

This is an oath we are duty-bound to keep, and it links us with the highest aspirations of the ages.

In this room, our colleagues across history have abolished slavery; granted women the right to vote; established Social Security and Medicare; offered a hand to the weak, care to the sick, education to the young, and hope to the many.

Indeed, it is here, under the gaze of our patriarch George Washington in the people's House that we have done the people's work.

My colleagues, I stand before you as Speaker of the House, as a wife, a mother, a grandmother, a devout Catholic, a proud Democrat, and a patriotic American, a citizen of the greatest republic in the history of the world, which President Lincoln called the last, best hope of Earth.

Indeed, in the words attributed to another of our colleagues, the legendary Daniel Webster: "Hold on, my friends, to the Constitution of your country and the government established under it. . . ."

"Miracles do not cluster. That which has happened but once in 6,000 years cannot be expected to happen often."

Indeed, American democracy is majestic, but it is fragile. Many of us here

have witnessed its fragility firsthand; tragically, in this Chamber. So democracy must be forever defended from forces that wish it harm.

Last week, the American people spoke, and their voices were raised in defense of liberty, of the rule of law, and of democracy itself.

With these elections, the people stood in the breach and repelled the assault on democracy. They resoundingly rejected violence and insurrection and in doing so, "gave proof through the night that our flag was still there."

Now, we owe to the American people our very best to deliver on their faith, to forever reach for the more perfect union, the glorious horizon that our Founders promised.

The questions before us in this Congress and this moment are urgent; questions about the ideals that this House is charged by the Constitution to preserve and protect: "... establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity."

Our posterity, our children. Babies born today will live into the next century, and our decisions will determine their future for generations to come.

While we will have our disagreements on policy, we must remain fully committed to our shared, fundamental mission: To hold strong to our most treasured democratic ideals, to cherish the spark of divinity in each and every one of us, and to always put our country first.

In their infinite wisdom, our Founders gave us their guidance: "e pluribus unum", "out of many, one."

They could not have imagined how large our country would become or how different we would be from one another, but they knew we had to be united as one.

We the people: One country, one destiny.

It has been with great pride that, in my 35 years in the House, I have seen this body grow more reflective of our great Nation, our beautiful Nation.

When I came to the Congress in 1987, there were 12 Democratic women. Now, there are over 90 and we want more.

The new members of our Democratic Caucus will be about 75 percent women, people of color, and LGBTQ. We have brought more voices to the decision-making table. When I entered leadership in 2002, there were eight of us. Today, there are 17 members of leadership.

When I first came to the floor at 6 years old, never would I have thought that some day I would go from homemaker to House Speaker. In fact, I never intended to run for public office.

Mommy and Daddy taught us through their example that public service is a noble calling and that we all have a responsibility to help others. In our family, my brother, Tommy, then became mayor of Baltimore also.

It has been my privilege to play a part in forging extraordinary progress